

III. Joint Meeting called by Dr. Louis C. Kossuth, Arizona State Health Commissioner

1. The meeting was called to discuss the operational problems of the Salt River Indian Community disposal sites. It was attended by concerned local, State and Federal agencies as well as tribe representatives (attendance list attached).

2. At the meeting the following points were made:

(a) The Cities of Scottsdale and Mesa recognize the problems at the landfill sites and feel they must work closely with the Tribe in order to have a better operation. It should be noted that the cities and Indian Community have already discussed the situation. Both the county and State were also invited to attend future meetings.

(b) Scottsdale realizes that its 204 demonstration grant monies are dependent on the successful operation of the Salt River Indian Community disposal site.

(c) The Indian Community indicated they are going to lease or rent additional equipment immediately in order to help close out the old site and run the new site in a more efficient manner.

(d) EPA was asked if technical assistance and training was available for the Community. I indicated we will provide technical assistance.

(e) It was agreed that for the short run the most crucial problems are to close out the old site and get additional equipment, expertise and better management for the new site operation.

(f) It should be stressed that all parties concerned expressed a willingness to work together to solve the disposal sites problems.

Carl C. Kohnert Jr.
Carl C. Kohnert, Jr.

Attachment

Chrysomelidae

My best friend

100 C.A. 11

[illegible]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Charles T. Bourns, Chief, Office of Solid Waste
EPA, Region IX

FROM : Carl C. Kohnert Jr., Physical Science Specialist

SUBJECT: Trip Report - Salt River Indian Community and joint Federal, State,
and Local Government Meeting regarding Operation of Salt River
Disposal Sites, Phoenix, AZ 10-30-72

6803
11-9-72

In response to a request from the Salt River Indian Community, Carl Kohnert of EPA met with Paul Smith, President of Salt River Tribal Council, Jim Trant, Planner for the Salt River Community, and Vern Bergman, Chief of Environmental Health Services, Indian Health Services, to discuss the problems of the Community landfill operation. During the day, the group inspected the two landfill sites at the Salt River Community, discussed the problems and needs of the landfill operation, and met with the State Health Commissioner, local health departments and communities in a joint meeting to discuss the Salt River disposal site problems.

The following comments represent the highlights of the site visit and joint meeting as well as my recommendations for improving the Salt River landfill operation.

I. Old Landfill Site

1. This site has been recently closed due to several problems, i.e. proximity of the site to the Gila River, constant burning problems, County and State complaints, etc.

2. The site needs to be closed permanently in an environmentally acceptable manner. Currently the site lacks final cover material, is cluttered with old car bodies and 50-gallon drums, lacks adequate fencing to eliminate illegal dumping, has a large pile of old cans and bottles which scavengers go through on a regular basis and is developing vector problems, i.e. flies, mosquitoes, rodents.

3. The following recommendations should be implemented immediately:

(a) cover the entire site with a minimum of two feet of compacted cover material--this will end fire problems, eliminate scavenging and improve the aesthetics of the area.

(b) Remove, crush and dispose of the 30 and 50 gallon drums which have been left at the site. These drums are dangerous because of the materials they contained; solvents, industrial coatings, chemicals and



because of the breeding areas they are now providing for vectors. These problems are an immediate concern for the Salt River Indian Community.

(c) Contract with someone to remove the old car and truck bodies at the site. These vehicles are dangerous for children, represent a blight on the area, and tend to attract other abandoned vehicles.

(d) Eliminate access to the site. This can be accomplished with stronger fences and a locked gate. People will continue to dump in an area which looks dump; if the Indian Community will close the site properly illegal dumping will be greatly reduced.

II. New Landfill Site

1. The new site is located approximately 1 mile northeast of the old site, out of the main Gila River flood plain. It is in an old gravel quarry operation and appears to have considerable capacity for refuse disposal. The new site receives approximately 900 tons of refuse daily with the first packer trucks arriving at 5A.M. and continuing until 10P.M. It is estimated that there are about 100 packer truckloads daily. The site is operated by 6 men with two work shifts. There are currently 4 pieces of equipment at the site, a crawler dozer, compactor, scraper and water truck. During my visit the compactor was not operating. In addition a dozer was lost in the last big fire and has not been replaced to date. The site appears to accept all wastes which are brought to the gate. At present the site operates everyday except Sunday, however there is pressure to keep the site open everyday. There are no scales at the site, charges are based on volume.

2. The following problems were noted at the site:

(a) There is an obvious equipment shortage at the site, the one dozer and scraper cannot begin to keep up with the refuse being brought in.

(b) Compaction needs to be improved in order to make the operation more efficient.

(c) Hazardous wastes and/or difficult to handle wastes should be charged more and there is a need for a specific operating plan to dispose of them.

(d) Wet sewage sludges and cesspool dumpings should not be disposed of at the working face. If they are accepted at all, there should be special handling procedures developed for their proper disposal.

(e) It appears there is a need for better operation and management of the site. The community should have a rate schedule which allows for an efficient and environmentally safe operation, adequate equipment and a reasonable profit for the Community.

(f) Training is necessary for the site operators to aid them in becoming self sufficient and to help them overcome some of the problems they have experienced at the site, i.e. fires, illegal dumping, lack of proper compaction, etc.



Arizona State Department of Health

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COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

October 18, 1972

S. F. Farnsworth, M.D.
Assistant County Manager for Health Services
Maricopa County Health Department
1625 East Roosevelt
Phoenix, Arizona 85006

Dear Doctor Farnsworth:

During the past several months we have become increasingly concerned with the sanitation and air pollution problems emanating from the landfill operation on the Salt River Reservation. It is my understanding that a new site has recently been put into operation but that proper covering procedures are still not being employed. I am concerned that unless the new landfill site, as well as the older one, are properly operated, we will continue to have the same problems that have been experienced with the older site.

I am committed to the proposition that the refuse of all of Arizona's cities and towns can be disposed of without violating sanitation or air pollution laws or regulations particularly where there is an adequate volume of refuse to support an approvable landfill operation. I sincerely believe that the problems that have been encountered in the disposal of refuse from the cities of Scottsdale and Mesa can be promptly resolved to the satisfaction of all interested agencies by a round-table discussion of the problems each of the agencies faces.

I trust that the Maricopa County Health Department shares my concern, endorses my commitment and is willing to cooperate in resolving the matter. You are invited to attend a meeting to be held October 30, 1972 at 2:00 P.M. in the east wing conference room of the Maricopa County Health Department. Representatives of all Federal, State and local governments having an interest in this matter, as well as of the Salt River Tribal Council, are being invited.

I would appreciate it if you would complete and return the enclosed card indicating who will be representing your agency. Opportunity will be given for each of the agencies represented to present its viewpoint. If you have any suggestions concerning the meeting, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Louis C. Kossuth, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner of Health

Enclosure 1

cc: Mr. Joseph Weinstein, Chief
Environmental Services Division

The attached letter was sent to the following agencies:

Salt River Tribal Council
Mr. Garnet L. Gates
Deputy Tribal Chairman

Mayor Eldon W. Cooley
City of Mesa
cc: Charles K. Luster
Public Works Director

Mayor Bud Tims
City of Scottsdale
cc: Marc G. Stragier
Public Works Director

Mr. Vernon Bergman
Chief, Environmental Health Services
Indian Health Service Area Office

S. F. Farnsworth M.D.
Assistant Co. Manager for Health Svcs

cc: Joseph Weinstein, Chief
Environmental Services Division

John Artichoker, Jr.
Area Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Phx. Area Office

Hawley Atkinson
Governor's Office

Maricopa Co. Attorney

Att: Douglas Zimmerman

Hon. Gary K. Nelson
The Attorney General

Att: Andrew W. Bettwy

Clinton M. Pattee, Ex. Sec.
Commission of Indian Affairs

Paul DeFalco,
Regional Administrator
U. S. E.P.A.

cc: Frank M. Covington
Air & Water Progra
Charles Bourns
Solid Waste Sect.

John J. DeBolski, Sec.
Maricopa Co. Area Governments
cc: Kenneth Driggs
Marc Stragier, Chairm
Waste Disposal Comm.

ASDH

Dr. Kossuth
Bruce Scott
John Beck
Dick Hannan
Bill White